I claim:

1.   A self-service terminal for allowing customer download of electronic media comprising:

a customer information interface for receiving customer information including purchase and usage patterns;

a customer command interface for communicating information to a customer and allowing input of customer commands;

a data acquisition interface for acquiring electronic media for transfer to a customer;

a data transfer interface for transferring electronic media to a customer contact device; and

a processor for receiving the customer information, using the customer information to identify customer preferences, generating customer information displays based on customer preferences and purchase and usage patterns, generating customer command menus, receiving customer commands and processing financial transactions and data transfers based on the customer commands.

2.   The terminal of claim 1 wherein the data transfer interface includes a download cradle adapted to connect with an electronic book reader to provide a connection for the transfer of information between the terminal and the electronic book reader.

3.   The terminal of claim 2 wherein the customer information interface includes a keyboard to allow the customer to enter information.

4.   The terminal of claim 3 wherein the customer command interface includes a display to provide the customer with information describing available options and choices and a customer input device to allow the customer to issue commands and make selections.

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5. The terminal of claim 4 wherein download cradle is adapted to read customer information from the electronic book reader and wherein the customer information interface includes the download cradle.

6. The terminal of claim 5 wherein the customer information interface includes a smart card reading and writing device for reading customer information to and writing data from a smart card and wherein the data transfer interface also includes the smart card reading and writing device, the smart card reading and writing device being adapted to receive data from and transfer data to the terminal.

7. The terminal of claim 6 wherein the processor is adapted to retrieve the customer information and analyze the customer information to determine customer preferences and to use the customer preferences to develop purchase suggestions based on the customer preferences.

8. The terminal of claim 7 wherein the terminal is operative to cryptoprocess data for delivery to the electronic book reader.

9. The terminal of claim 8 wherein the data transfer interface includes a compact disk recorder for recording software on a recordable compact disk.

10. A system for distribution of electronic media comprising:

a distribution terminal adapted to establish contact with a customer using a customer contact device and to transfer the electronic media to the customer contact device;

a terminal support manager for storing customer information and providing the customer information to the terminal for use in developing command menus and suggestions based on customer characteristics and preferences; and

a terminal data manager for storing and retrieving electronic media to be distributed to a customer and for transferring the electronic media to the terminal as needed.

11.   The system of claim 10 wherein the terminal is operative to retrieve customer information stored in the contact device and use the customer information to provide a customer-specific user interface.

12.   The system of claim 11 wherein the terminal is further operative to retrieve customer information stored in the terminal support manager and to combine the information retrieved from the contact device with the information retrieved from the terminal support manager in providing the customer-specific user interface.

13.   The system of claim 12 wherein the terminal is operative to retrieve customer information from the contact device and transmit the customer information to the terminal support manager.

14.   The system of claim 13 wherein the terminal is operative to accept customer inputs of customer information and transmit the customer information to the terminal support manager.

15.   The system of claim 14 wherein the terminal is operative to cryptoprocess media for delivery to the contact devices.

16.   The system of claim 15 and also including an advertising server and wherein the terminal support manager is operative to retrieve advertising from the advertising server and to supply the advertising to the terminal, and wherein the terminal is operative to selectively display advertising based on customer information.

17.   The system of claim 16 wherein the terminal is operative to connect to a network adapted to provide remote audio and video communication.

18.   A method of electronic media distribution, comprising the steps of:

arousing a customer terminal from an idle state upon presentation of a customer contact

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device;

retrieving customer information; and

generating an opening menu based on the retrieved customer information.

19.   The method of claim 18 wherein the step of retrieving customer information includes retrieving centrally stored customer information from a central database.

20.   The method of claim 19 wherein the step of retrieving customer information includes retrieving locally stored customer information stored in the contact device;

21.   The method of claim 20 wherein the step of retrieving the customer information is followed by a further step of retrieving advertising content and wherein the advertising content and the centrally stored customer information are processed to generate a java applet, and wherein the step of generating the opening menu includes providing the locally stored customer information to the java applet as an input.

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